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WHEAT SUPPLY IS A MYSTERY IN BREAD QUIZ

Federal Ignorance Over
Crop Bared at Hear-
ing Opened Here.

WITNESSES HINT AT BAKERS' PLOT

Meetings That Preceded Price
Increase Shown—Appeal
Made to Wilson.

The Department of Agriculture at Washington appears not to have any accurate information as to the present condition or movement of the wheat crop. That was indicated yesterday at the first day's hearing of the Attorney General's investigation into the rise in the price of bread and wheat. From other sources, pertinent to the inquiry evidence of the same dilatory status in the Agricultural Department was obtained.

Failing so far to obtain any satisfactory information on these important lines from the federal department, Deputy Attorney General Alfred L. Becker, who is conducting the investigation, will resort to-day to the testimony of two statisticians of the New York Produce Exchange, Henry Heizer and A. L. Russell. Becker expects to devote most of the time at the hearings to-day to the testimony of these two men in the hope of securing some expert knowledge of actual wheat conditions throughout the country.

Plot Secret Lurks in Wheat.

Present status of the wheat crop is an all-important factor to be determined in the present inquiry here. In order to ascertain whether a criminal conspiracy or combination has existed in boosting the price of wheat, and to trace its ramifications to this city and state, it is essential to know where and by whom the supply is being held, and through what channels it has moved, or failed to move, into the market. The crucial object of the inquiry, as outlined by Mr. Becker, is to get beyond the local baker and search out the big men in the bull movement.

It is understood that the Attorney General wrote the Department of Agriculture ten days ago asking for statistical information. The reply came back that the department was at present making an investigation of the subject, but was not in a position at that time to offer the data requested. It developed that as late as Saturday official inquiry had been made by the Department of Agriculture of the expert statisticians of the New York Produce Exchange for information along the same lines requested by the Attorney General. This fact probably will be brought out at the hearing today, when the Produce Exchange witnesses testify.

Mrs. Julian Heath, president of the National Housewives' League, sought similar information of the Department of Agriculture in person when in Washington early in January, with equally discouraging results. Mrs. Heath yesterday wrote a letter to President Wilson urging him, on behalf of the league, to instruct the Department of Agriculture to investigate "the stock of wheat at once in order that the citizens of the United States may have full knowledge of the quantity of available wheat and where it is now being held."

Woman's Plea to Wilson.

Her letter is as follows:

Honorable and Dear Sir: In the early part of January I visited the Department of Agriculture in Washington, seeking information in regard to the status of the wheat supply of this country. It was the desire of the National Housewives' League, of which I have the honor to be founder and president, to obtain intelligent information in regard not only to the quantity but the distribution of our wheat supply.

The following questions were submitted to the department:

How much of our wheat supply are the producers still holding?

How much of our wheat supply is now in the elevators?

Is the wheat moving from producer to elevator and from the elevators to the market?

What percentage of our surplus has already been shipped abroad?

Enclosed you will find a copy of the letter written by Carl Vrooman, Assistant Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, in response to our request for information.

Will this letter you will readily see that not only was the Department of Agriculture unable to give the information which we so eagerly sought, but was obliged to refer us to "The Chicago Daily Trade Bulletin," which seemed to be their only source of information.

Your Department of Agriculture informed me that an investigation of the stock of wheat on the farms was taken on March 1 and July 1.

The Housewives' League respectfully urges that you instruct the Department of Agriculture to investigate the stock of wheat at once in order that the citizens of the United States may have full knowledge of the quantity of available wheat and where it is now being held.

Respectfully,
JENNIE DEWEY HEATH.

In Mr. Vrooman's letter to Mrs. Heath, dated January 22, he said that he had sought the information in the Bureau of Crop Estimates, but had found that they had no very definite knowledge along those lines.

"It is not known how much wheat the

Jersey and Bay State Both Submit Suffrage

Women's Victory in Two Neighbor States on Same
Day Insures Vigorous Fall Campaigns—Triumph
Comes After Years of Strenuous Work.

New Jersey and Massachusetts were added yesterday to the states in which the voters are to decide next fall whether the franchise shall be given to women. New York and her neighbors thus will have a livelier election than is usual in the year before a Presidential campaign. In all three states the suffragists, elated at their success in the "stronghold of conservatism," are planning vigorous campaigns.

In New Jersey the State Senate passed the woman's suffrage resolution, comma and all, by a vote of 17 to 4. The Assembly had already ratified it, and the question will be put before the voters in September. Fears for the comma which was said to be missing when the resolution left the Assembly proved groundless. It was in the official copy introduced before the Senate.

The New Jersey State Senators who voted against the resolution were Democrats. The views of the Senators were split four ways, regardless of their personal views, they thought the question should go before the voters. Besides those who voted "No" in accordance with their views on the propriety of giving women the vote, there was Senator Ramsey.

"If this question were to be submitted to the women of the state," said Ramsey, "I might favor the resolution, because I do not believe the majority of the women want the ballot. But this question will now be submitted to the men, and we know that the men will be easily influenced by the women suffragists. I fear that the pro-

HOUSE PASSES THE SHIP BILL BY GAG RULE

Fourteen-Hour Fight Ends
in Success of Wilson
Compromise.

DEMOCRATS WIN BY 94 MAJORITY

Republicans Force Many Roll-
calls Before Giving
Up Battle.

Washington, Feb. 17. The administration's compromise ship purchase bill as an amendment to the Weeks naval auxiliary bill was passed by the House at 1:20 o'clock this morning, by a vote of 215 to 121.

The passage of the bill followed a fourteen-hour parliamentary struggle which, until long after midnight, threatened to extend interminably, because of a determined filibuster led by the minority leader, Mr. Mann, who yielded only after administration leaders decided to apply a second special rule to bring the fight to an end.

The bill will go to the Senate at noon to-day. Nineteen Democrats voted against the bill. They were Messrs. Bathrick, Borchers, Callaway, Dies, Donohue, Fitzgerald, Gerry, Gordon, Jones, Kindel, Kitchin, Morrison, Moss, of Indiana; Page, of North Carolina; Saunders, Slayden, Whitacre, White and Witherspoon.

All the Republicans present voted against the bill, while the Democratic majority for it: Messrs. Bryan, Kelly, of Pennsylvania; MacDonald, Lafferty and Murdoch.

Mann Forces Roll Call.

When debate was concluded, not long before midnight, Mr. Mann demanded a roll call on the proposal to insert the words "with the consent of the President" in the clause in the compromise bill—a part of the compromise bill—authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to acquire naval auxiliaries for merchant vessels. By this move Mr. Mann virtually served notice that he might force half a dozen roll calls before the bill finally passed.

The debate on the bill, which began before noon, was closed just before midnight by Chairman Alexander, of the Merchant Marine Committee, who battled gallantly watched the House battle, which was a bit spectacular and heated at times.

Leaders Hold Aloof.

It was significant, however, that neither the majority leader, Mr. Underwood, the prospective majority leader, Mr. Klein, nor Representative Fitzgerald, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, took part in the debate. Mr. Underwood favored the bill and Messrs. Kitchin and Fitzgerald were undecided. The question was left to the "lesser leaders."

Mr. Mann closed the debate for the minority. He had waged a fierce battle during the evening, but during the day he adopted earlier in the day. He succeeded, however, in forcing numerous roll calls on points of no quorum.

"I have announced his opposition to the bill, but frankly said he trusted the President not to involve this nation in international troubles. He said he was opposed to the bill because it was too unnecessary and dangerous. He added that he gave the President credit for being sincere in his desire to keep



MISS EUGENIE A. PHILBIN.
(Photo copyright by Bauman, Court Photographer.)

'PHONES HE WED MISS E. A. PHILBIN

L. H. Wetmore Announces
Ceremony and Family
Admit It.

By telephone a man who said he was L. H. Wetmore informed The Tribune last night that he had been married yesterday to Miss Eugenie A. Philbin. Miss Philbin is the daughter of Justice Eugene A. Philbin, of the Supreme Court and former District Attorney. Mr. Wetmore's mother is Mrs. James W. Markoe, of 12 West Fifty-fifth Street.

The ceremony was performed, The Tribune's informant said, at the Church of St. Paul, the Apostle, at Sixth Street and Columbus Avenue, by the Rev. John J. Burke.

Miss Philbin's engagement to Arthur Russell Jones, the son of W. Strother Jones, was broken off in June, 1914. No explanation was given. Miss Philbin is noted for her fondness for athletics and outdoor life.

Mr. Wetmore's home is with his mother. Her husband, Dr. James W. Markoe, was the friend and physician of the late J. P. Morgan. Mr. Morgan bequeathed him an annuity of \$25,000.

Dr. Markoe early this morning admitted that his stepson had married Miss Philbin. He would give no further information. At the Philbin home a maid said that the marriage had taken place.

BEEES SEIZED WITH CARE

Now Constable Is in Quandary
With Hives He Attached.

Edgar H. O'neill, of Whaley Lake, attached two hives containing 110,000 bees to satisfy a judgment against Lewis Methyl, of Lakeville, for \$36 due him on a bill for feed yesterday in the latter village.

O'neill turned the attachment over to Constable Taggart, who found that Methyl, who owns a bee farm, had died of all of his stock. All he could find to attach was two colonies of bees. After Taggart cautiously took them from a house and loaded them on a wagon, Methyl laughed and remarked: "Now that you've got them, what are you going to do with them?" Neither O'neill nor Taggart knows.

HARDEN HAS HARD WORD FOR AMERICA

Says That in Present War We
Care for Nothing but
Money Making.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)

London, Feb. 17.—"The Times" says: "In the last number of 'Zukunft' Maximilian Harden publishes a long, contemptuous article about the United States, the conclusion of which is that that country will profit more and more by the war, and cares about nothing else."

He says Germany does not care in the least about American opinion regarding the causes of the war, and that it is not worth while to utter a syllable in the German defence. He adds:

"Seriously, however, we beg you not to cry murder if American ships are injured by an attack of German submarines. England desires to shut off our food, and we desire to shut off England's import of foodstuffs and raw materials. You do not try to reach our coasts with cargoes. Stay away, therefore, from British coasts also. You were warned in good time that this is now to be imposed by pitiless necessity. It must be, and let no cry of pain and no menace sound in Germany's ears."

Thereafter He Thinned.

Paris, Feb. 16. The belt worn by Napoleon at the battle of Waterloo, which shows that his girth then was 41½ inches, has been presented to the National Military Museum by Mme. Polignot, widow of the military painter.

England Plans Blockade To Close German Ports; Air Fleet in New Raid

40 ALLIED WARPLANES DROP BOMBS IN BELGIUM

German Batteries at Ostend and Middelkerke, Transports
in Interior and Locks at Zeebrugge
Shelled and Damaged.

London, Feb. 16. Forty British and French aeroplanes to-day made another massed attack on the German positions along the Belgian coast, dropping bombs on the mole and locks at Zeebrugge, to destroy or damage the submarine base; on the guns at Ostend and Middelkerke and on the aerodrome at Ghistelles. According to the official report, "good results" were attained.

While the British airmen, all of the air wing of the British navy, were operating nearer the coast against gun positions, submarine base, supply trains and barges and the trawlers used in mine-laying and mine-sweeping operations, eight French airmen attacked the aerodrome at Ghistelles, five miles inland from Ostend, thus breaking off the German air force from the German airmen, from making an attempt to cut off the British machines.

In all 240 bombs were dropped. Those used by the British weighed eighty-five pounds each.

The official report makes no mention of the airmen engaged, as it did last week, when thirty-four of the navy's aircraft participated in the raid, though it is presumed that they all returned safely. The day was bright and clear, conditions being more favorable than last week for a raid. The official report on to-day's attack says: "The air operations of the naval wing against the Bruges, Ostend and Zeebrugge district were continued this afternoon. Forty aeroplanes and seaplanes bombarded Ostend, Middelkerke, Ghistelles and Zeebrugge. Bombs were dropped on the east and west batteries situated on the coast and heavy sides of Ostend, on gun positions at Middelkerke, on transports on the Ostend-Ghistelles road, on the mole at Zeebrugge to widen the breach caused by former attacks, on the locks at Zeebrugge, on barges outside Blankenberge and on trawlers outside Zeebrugge."

"Eight French aeroplanes assisted the naval machines by making vigorous attacks on the Ghistelles aerodrome, thus effectively preventing German aircraft from cutting off our machines. It is reported that good results were obtained."

"Instructions are always issued to confine attacks to points of military importance, and every effort is made by the flying officers to avoid dropping bombs on any residential portions of towns."

RUSSIANS HURLED BACK BY FOE IN BUKOWINA

Austrians and Germans Slaughtered by Thousands as
They Force Passage of Sereth and
Press on Czar's Army.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)

London, Feb. 17.—"The Daily Chronicle" publishes the following dispatch from its correspondent with the Russian army in Bukovina, sent from the town of Novoe Seltitza on Monday:

"Like a pack of hungry wolves, the mixed force of the enemy continued throughout to-day to throw itself against the Russians' entrenched position defending Czernowitz. While watching the gigantic struggle from the plateau above the River Pruth I received my baptism of fire with the Russians."

"Dense masses of Austrian and German troops attacked fiercely at two points fifteen miles apart to cross the Sereth River. The southern column, was composed, as far as I could see, of Austrians, with a stiffening of Bavarian troops, and they marched parallel with the Rumanian frontier, debouching from the forest of Crautzaul. They crossed the valley of Moldava, and thence swung north to the village of Michalcz, where they were brought to a dead stop by the entrenched Russians. The eastern column was composed entirely of German troops."

"After gaining Storaesynetz, on the left bank of the Sereth, they gained Kuzumcar, eight miles south of Czernowitz, and established contact with their western column. The Germans suffered appalling losses in negotiating the passage of the Sereth. The fire of the Russians' artillery was terribly effective, and they disputed fiercely every yard of ground."

Third Column on Way.

"News came that a third force of the enemy had broken through in Galicia and was advancing down the valley of the Pruth from Waskiwitza. It was clear that for the possession of the east corner of Bukovina—the northeastern district in which is the capital—a vast turning movement was being attempted against the Russians. The two columns which, as mentioned, had in overwhelming numbers already crossed the River Sereth, threatened to cut off a retreat from Czernowitz, and the fighting became desperate and continuous. The Russians fought a magnificent battle, but were pressed back in all directions on a front extending nearly 100 miles."

"The Russian position in front of Czernowitz had been established on top of a snow-clad plateau, separated by a deep, snowbound valley from the main German and Austrian positions."

"In many wars I have seen soldiers of many countries in action, but it was my first experience of the Russian in action, fighting with his back to the wall, with sublime courage and devotion render him a combatant of which Russia and her Allies may well feel proud. I must pay my tribute of homage and respect to the Russian soldier, simple, brave, and ready to die for his country, who die with their faces to the foe and with sacred names on their lips."

"Leaving Czernowitz to-day, I crossed the Pruth and crossed the frontier the thunder of cannon is unabated. Fugitives from Czernowitz, leading Austrian vengeance, have been passing in hundreds, but the enemy has now cut the road from Czernowitz to Rumania. The Russians are hurrying up reinforcements."

FRENCH AND BRITISH AUTHORS FIGHT AS SIMPLE SOLDIERS

Paris, Feb. 15.—Many French authors, poets and dramatists are serving in the army in various capacities. Henri Bernstein, the dramatist, is serving as a gunner at Fort Havre; Marcel Prevost, the poet and author, is a captain of artillery in the entrenched camp of Paris; Etienne Rey, the writer, and Robert de Fiers, the playwright, are serving at the front, as also is Reynold Hahn, the latter as a simple soldier in the trenches in the Argonne.

Marcel Boulanger, the writer, has been taken half frozen from the trenches near Nancy and placed in a hospital. François de Tesson, the journalist and secretary general of the French Commission to the San Francisco Exposition, was wounded some time ago, but has recovered and is ready to return to the front.

London, Feb. 16.—Among British authors now serving their country are A. E. W. Mason, who has just received a commission in the Manchester Regiment. Professor Kettle, one of the most brilliant of Irish writers, and Stephen Gwynn, M. P., the author of "Highways and Byways in Donegal" and many other books in prose and poetry, are both representing Anglo-Irish literature. The former is now Lieutenant Kettle, the latter a private in the division that is to win honor as the Irish Brigade. A grandson of George Meredith—a young George Meredith—is at the front; two sons of Max Pemberton and four sons of Sir Lawrence Gomme are either there or on the way. Sir William Robertson Nicoll has given a son and a son-in-law to the service—the son in the Army Medical Corps, the son-in-law in the firing line.

YOUTHFUL PAIR ELOPE IN VAIN

Boy and Girl Endure Hard-
ships, but Fail to Wed
—Too Young.

Unable to induce a minister to marry them after they had spent Sunday night in a box car and Monday night in an unprotected shed, Miss Janet McVittie, fifteen years old, and Joseph McNally, seventeen, were returned by the police to their homes in Kearny, N. J., last night. They eloped early on Sunday evening.

The couple attended the Kearny High School, where they met last year. Several months ago McNally began to pay attention to the girl. She lives with her uncle, Henry Crookall, a retired contractor, of 267 Kearny Avenue. McNally's calls became so frequent that Mrs. Crookall told the lad that his attentions must cease. However, the young people met every day at school, and McNally always escorted Janet to and from the Kearny Union Presbyterian Church on Sunday.

Miss McVittie started for Sunday school on Sunday afternoon, and was told to be home by 6 o'clock. McNally, who was interested in their talk they did not notice the flight of time until it was after 6 o'clock. The girl was afraid to go home, and when her boy proposed that they elope she gladly consented.

They waited at the Harrison station of the Erie Railroad until 9 o'clock, and as no train came along and being practically without funds the couple found a box car, where they stopped for the night. They reached Newark on Monday morning, and after waiting at the home of a relative of McNally's, where they began the search for a minister. At every rectory they met the same reply, "Too young."

Wandering about until 10 o'clock at night, the pair reached a shed in Passaic, where they slept. McNally, who insisted upon sleeping there, despite the fact that there was no protection from the elements. She fell asleep on McNally's shoulder, and they awoke yesterday morning numb from the cold.

As if in a daze they stumbled on, finally reaching the boothhouse at Branch Brook Park, where from sheer exhaustion they dropped on a bench. There they were found, both crying bitterly, by Patrolman Jewell, who, after hearing their story, took them to the 24 Precinct.

After having some coffee and rolls the girl still insisted upon getting married, decided to agree with the little sisters and wait until they were a little older. A policeman took the couple to their homes in Kearny.

WHITMAN TO HEAR CHARGE

Governor Expected to Handle
Gagan Case in Person.

(From a Staff Correspondent of The Tribune.)

Albany, Feb. 16. It is believed that Governor Whitman will personally take up and decide the charges against District Attorney Thomas Gagan of Rockland County, growing out of his conduct of the trial of William W. Conley for the murder of his son-in-law, Eugene L. Newman.

The Governor has not appointed a commissioner to hear the charges, after when asked about the case this afternoon he said he considered that when charges were made against a District Attorney they were entitled to the personal attention of the Governor.

German Cargo in Boston.

Boston, Feb. 16.—The Swedish steamer Ran brought here to-day the first cargo received from Germany since the war began. She left Lubeck, on the Baltic Sea, on January 9, called at Copenhagen, skirted the Norwegian coast and then headed westward, passing between the Shetland and Orkney Islands, where she had miscellaneous consignments for New York and Philadelphia.

DEAF NOW TO SEE SOUNDS

Instrument Is Said to Make
Speech and Music Perceivable.

Bombay, India, Feb. 16.—It has been announced in Lahore that a Professor Aibe, of that city, has invented an instrument called a "phonoscope," which enables the totally deaf to perceive sounds, such as speech and music, by means of the eye.

PHANTOM AGAIN ESCAPES

Al Levy Absent When Dwyer
Raids Alleged Poolroom.

Residents of quiet Ninety-seventh Street, near the corner of Central Park West, ran to their telephones last night and flooded the wires to Police Headquarters with tales of burglars, thieves and other marauders when Detectives Bormonde and Gleason, of Inspector Dwyer's staff, raided an alleged poolroom at 38 West Ninety-sixth Street.

Three prisoners, six telephones and a bunch of racing charts were the products of the raid. The place was attacked top and bottom simultaneously, the police entering over the roofs by the skylight and by the basement. When the sifting was over, however, Al Levy, the wireless wire phantom, was not present. He had again fled Dwyer.

Philip Donohue, Frank Duffy and Joseph Donohue were the prisoners, but they were soon released on bail.

ABUSES AT BLACKWELL'S AS SEEN BY A CONVICT

Methods and Treatment at City Penitentiary Criticised
by an Ex-Prisoner—Miss Davis Makes
Specific Denials of His Charges.

A man fresh from a cell on Blackwell's Island came to the office of The Tribune the other day and attacked present conditions in the penitentiary under Miss Katharine Bement Davis, Commissioner of Correction.

This ex-prisoner alleged that the "dope" habit, lack of sanitation, rough treatment of prisoners by guards, insufficient clothing, and other evils existed within the walls of the East River institution. Some of his assertions were supported by an acquaintance who had spent a number of hours on the island as an investigator.

The Tribune showed the statements of both investigator and ex-prisoner to Commissioner Davis yesterday. A reporter then asked for a pass which would permit him to visit the penitentiary, inspect it from end to end, and chat with both guards and cell occupants. This pass was refused.

"You will simply go over and look for the bad things," Miss Davis declared. "That's true, isn't it?"

"Naturally," replied the reporter. "But I should not overlook the good things."

The ex-prisoner made a number of specific accusations which he refused to allow to be published, fearing that the stories would be traced to him.

"They would frame me and pick me up right away," he said. "I would be sure to get back there. You can laugh if you want to, but that's the way I feel about it."

He continued:

"Disease is rife and there is no plan made for preventing contagion. It is well known that a diseased biter makes bugs, and that some of the men

Continued on page 3, column 5.
Imported LA CAROLINA Cheroots, 10c.
Made for most discriminating smokers.
—Adv.